

The Midnight Cry: An American Christmas 2025

December 21, 2025

How many sorrows

Repentance	Shaker Song (Sabbathday Lake, ME, c. 1840)
The Ancients' song of mourning	Shaker Song (Lebanon, NY, c. 1850)
Bourbon	text : Martin Moeller (Germany, 1547-1606) music : <i>The Philharmonia</i> (Elkhart, IN, 1875)
<p>Oh God! How many sorrows befall me at this time; the narrow path is sorrowful, along which I am to wander to heaven. How hard it is for flesh and blood to be compelled to the eternal good? Where shall I turn then? To you, Lord Jesus! my heart is set.</p>	

The Heavenly Courtier

Kingsbridge	<i>The American Harmony</i> (Newburyport, MA, 1771)
Bozrah	<i>The Southern Harmony</i> (Philadelphia, PA, 1874)
Baptismal anthem	<i>The Sacred Harp</i> (Philadelphia, PA, 1860)
Convoy	<i>The New Harp of Columbia</i> (Knoxville, TN, 1867)
Wachet auf	<i>The Philharmonia</i> (Elkhart, IN, 1875)
Watchman of Zion	<i>The Philharmonia</i>

The audience is invited to sing this hymn with us.

Zion's rise, resounds with power, The watchman's voice from lofty tower, Awake Jerusalem, he cries.	Midnight's come, is heard in Chorus, In thousands tongues, in tones sonorous, Ye prudent virgin souls arise.
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Behold the bridegroom's nigh
Your lamps with oil supply, Hallelujah!
With joy prepare,
For your reward,
And hasten forth to hail the Lord.

When the bridegroom came	<i>Plantations Melodies</i> (Cincinnati, OH, 1882)
The heavenly courtier	Jeremiah Ingalls, <i>The Christian Harmony</i> (Exeter, NH, 1805)
The midnight cry	<i>The Sacred Harp</i>
Bangor	<i>The American Harmony</i> (Newburyport, MA, 1771)

The Christmas Story

Holy holy Angels	Shaker Song (Sabbathday Lake, ME, 1842)
The Boston march	Moses Kimball's manuscript (Newburyport, MA, c. 1790)
Boston	William Billings, <i>The Singing Master's Assistant</i> (Boston, MA, 1778)
A virgin unspotted	<i>Wyeth's Repository</i> (Harrisburg, PA, 1820)
Angel of Light	Shaker Song (Canterbury, NH, 1854)
Untexted Dance Song	Shaker Song (Sabbathday Lake, ME, c. 1840)
Bonnie Doon	Traditional Scottish, Boston, MA, c. 1850
The Star of Bethlehem	<i>The American Vocalist</i> (Boston, MA, 1849)
I wonder as I wander	Anonymous (NC, c. 1912)
Lullay thou tiny little child	text: England, ca 1590 music: Jeremiah Ingalls
While Shepherds watched	<i>Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs</i> (NY, 1867)
Sherburne	Daniel Read, <i>American Singing Book</i> (New Haven, CT, 1785)

What Child is this (Greensleeves) traditional English, printed in Boston, MA, c. 1890

The audience is invited to sing this song with us

1 What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

The Camerata: 2 Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail, the word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise, the Son on high,
The Virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Hush my babe

text: Isaac Watts

music: *The American Vocalist* (Boston, MA, 1849)

Pretty Home

Shaker Sister Patty Williamson (Pleasant Hill, KY, 1849)

Joy to the world

Lowell Mason (Boston, MA, 1849)

The audience is invited to sing this hymn with us

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing (bis)
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy (bis)
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love (bis)
And wonders, wonders of his love.

The Boston Camerata
Anne Azéma, Artistic Director

Anne Azéma, mezzo soprano
Camila Parias soprano
Deborah Rentz-Moore, alto
Dan Hershey, tenor
Ryan Lustgarten, tenor
Joel Frederiksen, bass, guitar
Jesse Lepkoff, flutes, guitar
Brian Kanner, cornet
Steven Lundahl, trombone
Brian Kay, trombone
Mack Ramsey, trombone

With

Longy School of Music of Bard College Students
Robbie Allen, Sam Dill, Maria Ivanova, Alex Karau,
Alexandra Reyna, Raven Whyles, Tianchen Zhou

Texts read are excerpted from the King James Bible.

With thanks to Music Director Emeritus Joel Cohen for this program.

Much of the music on this program, recorded by Anne Azéma and The Boston Camerata,
is available on major sound platforms.

The Boston Camerata tours nationally under the auspices of its own offices.

Please be in touch with us via e-mail: manager@bostoncamerata.org
or visit us on the web www.bostoncamerata.org